



Heat awareness and response among Montreal residents with chronic cardiac and pulmonary disease

Author(s): Kosatsky T, Dufresne J, Richard L, Renouf A, Giannetti N, Bourbeau J, Julien M, Braidy J, Sauve C
Year: 2009
Journal: Canadian Journal of Public Health (Revue Canadienne De Santé Publique). 100 (3): 237-240

Abstract:

OBJECTIVES: Persons affected by chronic heart and lung disease risk illness and death through exposure to extreme ambient heat. Here we describe their knowledge and awareness of the risks, and the degree to which they practice the protective behaviours recommended by public health and meteorological authorities. **METHODS:** Over the course of a hot Montreal summer, chronic cardiac and/or pulmonary insufficiency patients were recruited sequentially on site or by telephone from among attendees at five Montreal university hospital clinics. A one-hour face-to-face structured interview was completed by 238 patients, of whom 78% were at least 60 years of age. **RESULTS:** Participants were well informed about extreme heat and its impact on health. Most see themselves as vulnerable to heat, recall extreme heat advisories, and all adopt at least one recommended protective measure. Of the participants, 68% spend time in an air-conditioned space during extreme heat episodes, and more than 75% reduce their physical activity and drink extra fluids. A small minority resists recourse to air conditioning: of those without, 32% have "little confidence in buying an air conditioner" even if so advised by their caregivers, and 25% would refuse to overnight in an air-conditioned shelter during a prolonged heat wave. **CONCLUSIONS:** These chronically ill respondents perceive themselves as susceptible to extreme heat, have confidence in prevention, and almost all adopt recommended protective behaviours. A minority resists protective messaging.

Source: Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Non-U.S. North America

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

Other Vulnerable Population: people with chronic heart disease; people with chronic lung disease

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Resilience:

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content

